

Message Text

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ORIGIN DHA-05

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DRAFTED BY D/HA:EOJONES:CES

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USIA/I/O - MR. STRAIN

S/S - MR. TARNOFF

EUR/RPM - MR. SHINN

USIA - MR. REINHARDT (INFO)

-----003261 011100Z /13

R 010435Z OCT 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: WEST EUROPEAN OPINION ON BASKET III ISSUES

GENEVA FO, DERIAN

FOR AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG FROM PATT DERIAN

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1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A SEPTEMBER 30 MEMORANDUM SENT
BY USIA DIRECTOR JOHN REINHARDT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY
PATT DERIAN AND OTHERS:

2. IN HIS UN SPEECH ON TUESDAY, FOREIGN MINISTER
GROMYKO REITERATED IN STRONG TERMS THE THESIS THAT U.S.
CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE SOVIET UNION

CONSTITUTES INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
YOU MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW, ON THE EVE OF THE
BELGRADE CSCE CONFERENCE--WHERE THIS THEME WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY BE REPEATED BY THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES--
THAT PUBLIC OPINION AMONG OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES DEFINITELY
REJECTS THE SOVIET INTERPRETATION.

3. POLLED AT THE END OF JULY AND BEGINNING OF AUGUST,
WHILE THE PREPARATORY CSCE CONFERENCE STILL PURSUED ITS
RELATIVELY UNPUBLICIZED COURSE, STRONG MAJORITIES AMONG
THE WEST EUROPEANS AWARE OF THE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS
INITIATIVES ENDORSED THE VIEW THAT SUCH CRITICISM
REFLECTS A LEGITIMATE INTERNATIONAL CONCERN,
TRANSCENDING NATIONAL BOUNDARIES. IN GERMANY, THIS
OPINION WAS HELD BY EIGHT IN 10; IN BRITAIN, ITALY,
AND FRANCE, BY ABOUT SIX IN 10 OF THOSE FAMILIAR WITH
U.S. STATEMENTS. BY COMPARISON, ONLY ABOUT ONE IN 10
IN GERMANY AND ROUGHLY THREE IN 10 IN THE OTHER THREE
COUNTRIES ACCEPTED THE VIEW REPRESENTED BY THE
SOVIETS. AMONG THE REMAINDER OF THE PUBLIC--THOSE
NOT INFORMED ABOUT U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS--THE
PREVAILING OPINION IN GERMANY AND ITALY SHARED THE
US POINT OF VIEW BUT IN BRITAIN AND FRANCE ACCEPTED
THE VERSION ESPOUSED BY THE SOVIETS.

4. MOREOVER, CONCERNING KEY ELEMENTS IN BASKET III
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DEALING WITH THE FREER MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE, IDEAS, AND
INFORMATION, WHICH THE SOVIETS CONTEND ARE ESSENTIALLY
PRIVILEGES GRANTED BY THE STATE, THE INFORMED
EUROPEAN PUBLIC BELIEVED THE OPPOSITE. FULLY EIGHT
OR NINE IN 10 REJECTED THE VIEW THAT EMIGRATION AND
FREEDOM TO TRAVEL ABROAD ARE STATE-GRANTED FAVORS.
ALMOST EQUALLY SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITIES DEFINED FREE
ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AS A BASIC
HUMAN RIGHT--AN IMPLICIT REPUDIATION OF THE SOVIET
PRACTICE OF JAMMING FOREIGN RADIO BROADCASTS AND IMPOSING
TIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON WESTERN PUBLICATIONS.

5. AT THE SAME TIME, THE INFORMED EUROPEAN PUBLIC,
ACCUSTOMED TO FEATURES OF THE WELFARE STATE, SAW
CERTAIN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROVISIONS, INCLUDING
ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE AND JOB SECURITY, TO BE
HUMAN RIGHTS AS BASIC AS POLITICAL AND CIVIL
LIBERTIES. ACCORDINGLY, TO THE EXTENT EUROPEANS GAIN
THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S., AT THE UPCOMING
BELGRADE CONFERENCE, IS OVERWHELMINGLY CONCERNED WITH
THE PROTECTION OF POLITICAL AND CIVIL HUMAN RIGHTS,
WHILE DOWNGRADING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS, THE

POTENTIAL EUROPEAN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE U.S.
POSITION COULD PERHAPS BE REDUCED.

6. ACCEPTANCE AMONG INFORMED PUBLIC AS BASIC
HUMAN RIGHTS

	GERMANY	BRITAIN	FRANCE	ITALY
	PCT	PCT	PCT	PCT
FREEDOM TO EMIGRATE	85	81	80	82
FREEDOM TO TRAVEL ABROAD	76	80	86	80
FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION				
FROM OTHER COUNTRIES	77	68	78	90
FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND	78	89	77	90
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MALNUTRITION

ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE	71	82	91	93
ASSURANCE OF EMPLOYMENT	69	65	84	91

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